

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04270 151512Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SAB-02 HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 SY-05  
AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 /090 W  
-----075665 151524Z /50

O 151507Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7536  
INFO USSOUTHCOM  
PANCANAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 04270

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, ASEC, PN  
SUBJECT: LAST NIGHT'S VIOLENCE: SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

1. WE HOPE THAT LAST NIGHT'S EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY  
WILL NOT CAUSE ANY PANIC IN WASHINGTON. BUT THE POLITICAL  
SITUATION IS CLEARLY A CAUSE FOR LEGITIMATE CONCERN.

2. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT TORRIJOS OR THE NATIONAL  
GUARD IS LOSING ITS GRIP ON THE COUNTRY. THE GUARD RE-  
SPONDED WITH GREAT RESTRAINT TO THE VIOLENCE ON THE UNI-  
VERSITY CAMPUS. IN EFFECT IT SEALED OFF THE CAMPUS,  
LEAVING THE CAMPUS POLICE TO TRY TO CONTROL THE VIOLENCE.  
(UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY HAS A LONG TRADITION HERE, AS ELSE-  
WHERE IN LATIN AMERICA.) THE TROUBLE FIZZLED OUT, BUT NOT  
BEFORE SERIOUS DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE.

3. THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE FACT THAT THE POLITICAL  
TEMPERATURE HAS BEEN RAISED BY SO MANY UNACCUSTOMED  
POLITICAL CONDITIONS. THE CULMINATION (FOR PANAMA) OF  
THE TREATY PROCESS--WITH ALL THE DIVISIVENESS THAT HAS  
ENTAILED--IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION; THIS IS VIEWED AS A  
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LAST CHANCE FOR THE LOST CAUSE. MORE DISTURBING HAS BEEN  
THE IMPACT OF THE RETURNING EXILES, PARTICULARLY ARNULFO  
ARIAS. THE MOOD OF EXCITEMENT AND EXPECTATION IS CON-  
TAGIOUS; AND THIS HAS CREATED THE MOOD IN WHICH LAST  
NIGHT'S EVENTS COULD HAPPEN.

4. WE KNOW OF NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN ARIAS AND THE

LEFTIST STUDENTS WHICH COULD HAVE PRODUCED LAST NIGHT'S EVENTS. (WE WILL KNOW MORE LATER.) OBVIOUSLY, BETWEEN THE STUDENT ULTRAS AND THE EXILE ULTRAS THERE ARE CLOSE LINKS; BUT ARIAS' SPEECH SATURDAY WAS LACED WITH ANTI-COMMUNIST RHETORIC AND THE LEFT DIDN'T LIKE IT.

5. THOUGH WE STILL LACK INFORMATION, OUR BELIEF IS THAT THE STUDENT FRACAS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT THE WORK OF A CONSPIRACY WITH THE MAINSTREAM OF THE OPPOSITION (ARIAS, OTHER PARTIES, INDEPENDENT LAWYERS, ETC.). WHETHER THERE WAS A PLOT WITHIN THE LABYRINTHS OF THE FAR LEFT TO GET A MARTYR COULD BE ANOTHER QUESTION. JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PANAMA04270  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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